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TOP SECRET

RCA-03/0005/69

[redacted]

Basic Imagery Interpretation Report

NATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION CENTER

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[redacted]

ARALSK RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT/INSTRUMENTATION FACILITY

[redacted]

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DEPLOYED COMM/ELEC/RADAR FACILITIES

USSR

JANUARY 1969

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TOP SECRET

INSTALLATION OR ACTIVITY NAME	COUNTRY
Aralsk Research and Development/Instrumentation Facility	UR

UTM COORDINATES	GEOGRAPHIC COORDINATES
NA	46-46-00N 061-21-00E

MAP REFERENCE

ACIC. Operational Navigation Chart, Sheet F-5, Apr 65, Scale 1:1,000,000 (UNCLASSIFIED)

LATEST IMAGERY USED	NEGATION DATE (If required)
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ABSTRACT

This report presents detailed information on all components of Aralsk Research and Development/Instrumentation Facility, USSR. The specific functions of this facility have not yet been determined. The facility consists of three related areas: a research and development test area, an instrumentation/communications area, and a support area. The most significant feature of this facility, located in the research and development test area, consists of two guyed towers spaced apart and a large hard-surfaced rectangular pad.

INTRODUCTION

The Aralsk Research and Development/Instrumentation Facility is located 13 nautical miles (nm) west of Aralsk, USSR, on the northern shoreline of the Sea of Aralsk. It is connected to Aralsk by roads. It is composed of three areas: the R&D test area, the instrumentation/communications area, and the support area. The instrumentation/communications area is located on a high bluff (approximately 500 feet elevation) overlooking the R&D test area and the support area (approximately 200 feet elevation) which is approximately 7,000 feet southwest of the R&D test area. This physical arrangement provides an unobstructed line-of-sight for the instrumentation/communications area.

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BASIC DESCRIPTION

Operational Functions

R&D Test Area

The R&D test area (Figure 2) is located on the northern shoreline of the Sea of Aralsk. The specific function of the area has not been determined. It contains two guyed lattice towers spaced apart. A road-served hard-surfaced rectangular pad is midway between the towers. The pad has two narrow hard-surfaced linear extensions measuring These form an approximately east-west axis in line with the towers. A series of poles with an average spacing of and an undetermined height are aligned along the axis of the pad and extensions. Four L-shaped objects (Figure 3), spaced 820 feet apart, form a square around the pad.

Instrumentation/Communications Area

The instrumentation/communications area is located approximately 7,000 feet northeast of the R&D test area and is situated on a bluff (elevation approximately 500 feet) overlooking the R&D and support areas (Figure 4). The instrumentation/communications area consists of four instrumentation buildings (Bldgs 1-4, Figure 6) of equal size and alignment, a steam plant, (Bldg 5), a support building (Bldg 5), and associated electronics equipment. A perpendicular line azimuth (broadside to the instrumentation buildings) of 225 degrees points in the direction of the R&D test area.

Various electronics components can be identified within the instrumentation/communications area. One pair (two antennas) of twin-dish troposcatter antennas was observed. The antennas are oriented on a propagation azimuth of 225 degrees and are located at 25X1 46-47-20N 061-21-00E [redacted] A van-mounted antenna of undetermined size, configuration, and function is in front of the instrumentations buildings. It appears to be oriented in the same general direction as the troposcatter antennas. A probable control van is adjacent to the van-mounted antenna. Probable telemetry antennas of an undetermined configuration are mounted on three of the four instrumentation buildings.

Footings for three high-frequency horizontal dipole antennas (Antenna 7 & 8) and a single 2-2-2 fishbone receiving antenna (Antenna 9) located to the rear of the instrumentation buildings, were identified on photography of [redacted] The latest coverage, [redacted] 25X1

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A pipeline trench parallels the main access road from Aralsk and appears to terminate near the steam plant. [redacted] 25X1

Two vans, seven generators, and two unidentified pieces of equipment are located to the rear of the instrumentation buildings.

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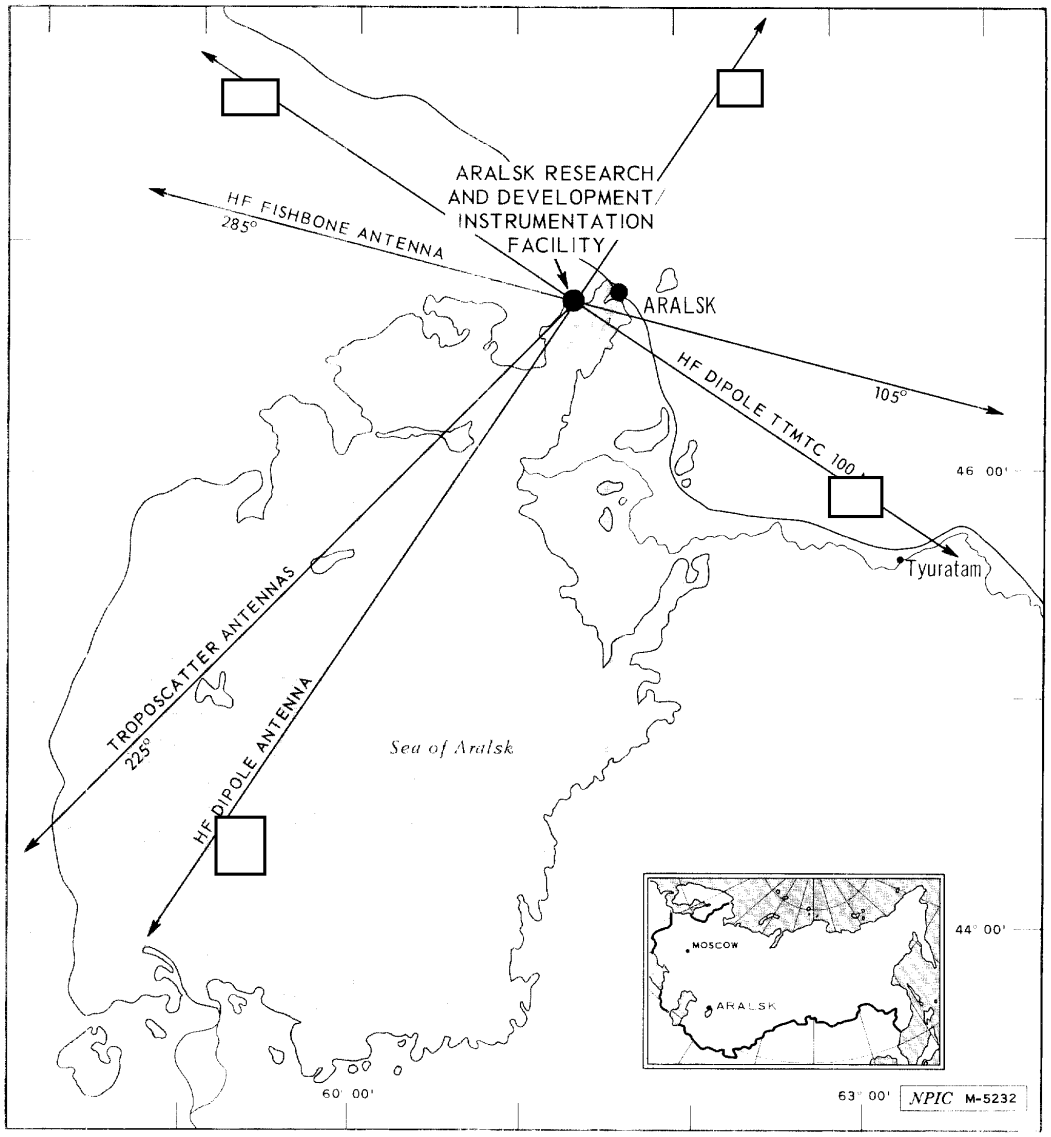

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FIGURE 1. LOCATION MAP.

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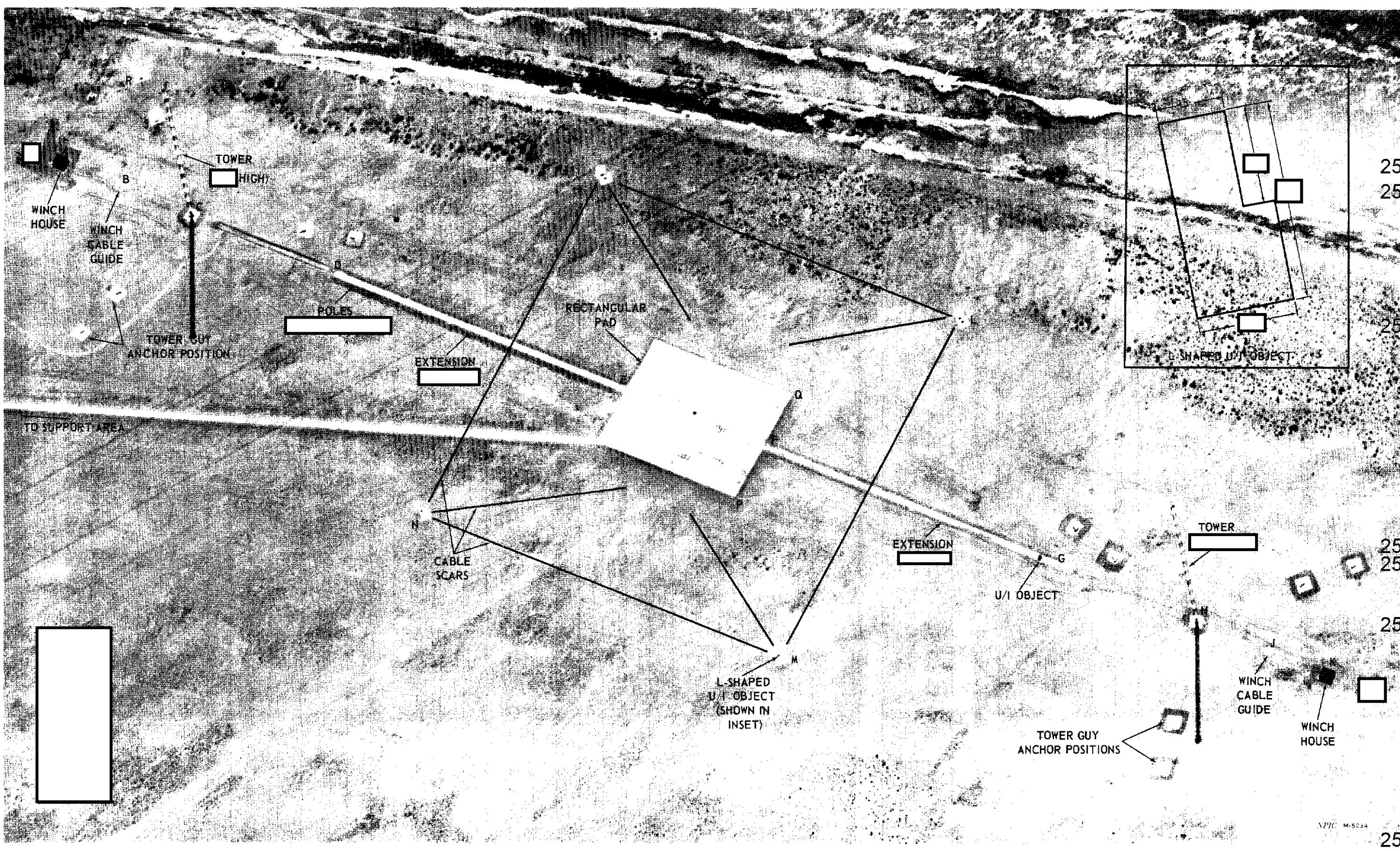

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FIGURE 3. R&D TEST AREA

Support Area

A support area (Figure 5) is located approximately 3,000 feet east of the R & D test area and consists of a 100- by 85-foot high-bay clerestory building (Bldg 1), a four-bay probable garage (Bldg 5), a two-story probable technical support building (Bldg 2), a probable checkout building (Bldg 4), three barracks buildings (Bldgs 8-10), and several small support buildings. It is of interest to note that the high-bay clerestory building is directly connected to the rectangular pad in the R&D test area by a hard-surfaced road.

Onsite electric power is provided by a probable generator power plant (Bldg 6), which probably utilizes diesel fuel. No overhead powerlines can be observed leading to or within the overall facility. A single-stack steam plant with an adjacent coal-storage bin is located to the rear of the probable technical support building.

An unusual singly secured structure, which is identified as a possible incinerator, is located between the barracks buildings and the support buildings. The structure has a square base with truncated sides and has a height of [redacted] The structure is surrounded 25X1
25X1 by a solid fence [redacted] and appears to have one entrance; no gate or barrier was observed. A small batch plant is located to the rear of the barracks buildings. An earthen mound, probably used to deflect run-off water, is on three sides of the support area.

Status and Activity

The area was first observed under construction in [redacted] Initial construction 25X1
activity consisted of three building foundations within the support area. Construction of the R&D test and support areas has proceeded at a steady pace from [redacted] to late 25X1
25X1 [redacted] Construction at the instrumentation/communications area began in mid-1967. The overall facility appears essentially complete on photography of [redacted] with the ex- 25X1
ception of erection of the support masts for the IIF antennas and the pipeline trench leading to the facility. [redacted] 25X1
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[redacted]

Security

The facility is enclosed on three sides by a single fence. The southernmost side is unsecured but its boundary is defined by the shoreline of the Sea of Aralsk. A security guard building is adjacent to the entrance on the main access road which enters the facility near the instrumentation/communications area. Two additional entrances are located on the northern and eastern side of the fence. [redacted] 25X1
25X1 [redacted]

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REFERENCES

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IMAGERY

MAPS OR CHARTS

ACIC. Operational Navigation Chart, Sheet F-5, Apr 65, Scale 1:1,000,000 (UNCLASSIFIED)

REQUIREMENT

COMIREX 77-69
NPIC Project 210175

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